

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 8 (previously cancelled)

Claim 9. (currently amended) A composite drive shaft comprising:

a plurality of discrete elongated stiffening mold members, said elongated stiffening mold members arranged parallel to a central axis, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members extend longitudinally through the full length of the composite drive shaft; and

composite fibrous material extending around said elongated stiffening mold members in a cylindrical shape to hold said elongated stiffening mold members in place.

Claim 10. (previously amended) The composite drive shaft of claim 9, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members have a trapezoidal cross-section.

Claim 11. (previously amended) The composite drive shaft of claim 9, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members have a T shaped cross-section.

Claim 12. (original) The composite drive shaft of claim 9, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members have a circular shape.

Claim 13. (original) The composite drive shaft of claim 9, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members are removable from the drive shaft to leave structural voids.

Claims 14 - 15. (cancelled)

Claim 16. (original) The composite drive shaft of claim 9, wherein said structural voids extend longitudinally through the full length of the composite drive shaft.

Claim 17. (original) The composite drive shaft of claim 9, wherein said structural voids extend longitudinally through a portion of the length of the composite drive shaft.

Claims 18 – 39 (previously cancelled)

Claim 40. (new) A composite drive shaft comprising:

a plurality of discrete elongated stiffening mold members, said elongated stiffening mold members arranged parallel to a central axis, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members extend longitudinally through a portion of the length of the composite drive shaft; and

composite fibrous material extending around said elongated stiffening mold members in a cylindrical shape to hold said elongated stiffening mold members in place.

Claim 41. (new) The composite drive shaft of claim 40, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members have a trapezoidal cross-section.

Claim 42. (new) The composite drive shaft of claim 40, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members have a T shaped cross-section.

Claim 43. (new) The composite drive shaft of claim 40, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members have a circular shape.

Claim 44. (new) The composite drive shaft of claim 40, wherein said elongated stiffening mold members are removable from the drive shaft to leave structural voids.

Claim 45. (new) The composite drive shaft of claim 40, wherein said structural voids extend longitudinally through a portion of the length of the composite drive shaft.